

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY TOKYO
INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TGEN, AS, JA

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE STORMFURY PROGRAM IN AUSTRALIA

REF : A) TOKYO 13505; B) STATE 187827

1. POSSIBLE STORMFURY PROGRAM (HURRICANE AMELIORATION)
OFF COAST OF AUSTRALIA HAS BEEN SUBJECT OF INFORMAL
DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN US AND AUSTRALIA FOR A NUMBER OF
MONTHS, WITH MOST OF DIALOGUE CARRIED ON BY NOAA SCIEN-
TISTS WITH THEIR AUSTRALIAN COUNTERPARTS. RECENTLY,
HOWEVER, AUSTRALIAN INTEREST IN PROGRAM HAS MARKEDLY
INCREASED AND, AS INDICATED REF B, THEY HAVE GIVEN US
DRAFT MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING COVERING POSSIBLE
STORMFURY PROGRAM. DRAFT CURRENTLY BEING STUDIED BY
DEPARTMENT.

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2. HOWEVER, BEFORE U.S. CAN PROCEED WITH ANY SUCH PROGRAM,
IT WILL BE NECESSARY FOR NOAA TO PRESENT A FIRM PROJECT
PROPOSAL AND AGREEMENT FOR REVIEW BY THE INTERDEPARTMENTAL
NSC AD HOC GROUP ON WEATHER MODIFICATION. IN ACCORDANCE
WITH STATE DEPARTMENT POLICY, NOAA MUST ALSO PREPARE AN

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT ON PROJECT FOR SUBMISSION
TO THE AD HOC GROUP, SINCE THE TEST TAKES PLACE OVER
INTERNATIONAL WATERS.

3. BECAUSE OF THESE REQUIREMENTS, AS WELL AS NEED TO
CONSULT WITH OTHER POSSIBLY AFFECTED COUNTRIES, THE
ACTUAL MOUNTING OF AN AUSTRALIAN EXPERIMENT WOULD APPEAR
TO BE SOME TIME OFF. MOREOVER, NEGOTIATIONS FOR STORM-
FURY PROGRAM OFF THE WEST COAST OF MEXICO WILL BE GETTING
UNDERWAY THIS SEPTEMBER AND THESE MIGHT AFFECT TIMING OF
ANY AUSTRALIAN PROGRAM.

4. DEPARTMENT AGREES IT IS IMPORTANT TO KEEP JAPANESE
GENERALLY INFORMED OF DEVELOPMENTS CONCERNING ANY BILA-
TERAL AGREEMENT WITH AUSTRALIA BUT WISHES TO CONSULT
AUSTRALIANS BEFORE DOING SO.

5. FOR CANBERRA. WOULD GOA HAVE ANY PROBLEMS WITH OUR
INFORMING JAPANESE OF THE GENERAL OUTLINE OF PROPOSED
AUSTRALIAN PROGRAM? WE BELIEVE SUCH A BRIEFING WOULD BE
USEFUL IN VIEW OF GOJ INTEREST THIS MATTER AND THEIR
GENERAL CONCERN ABOUT THE PROPOSED STORMFURY EXPERIMENT
IN THE WESTERN PACIFIC SOME YEARS AGO. THAT EXPERIMENT,
AS YOU KNOW, WAS DROPPED BECAUSE OF OBJECTIONS FROM
JAPAN AND CHINA. CHRISTOPHER

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*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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